

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) An image editing method comprising the steps of:
  - (a) receiving [a] first document data and [a] second document data obtained by reading respectively a first document and a second document each having at least one drawing and a drawing number located in the vicinity of the drawing;
  - (b) recognizing the drawing numbers from image data in the first document data and image data in the second document data;
  - (c) changing corresponding data in the first document data and the second document data so that the recognized drawing numbers do not overlap each other; and
  - (d) printing an image based on the changed first and second document data.
2. (Original) An image editing method as claimed in claim 1, in which said drawing numbers recognized in said step (b) include those that are referenced in texts of the documents.
3. (Original) An image editing method as claimed in claim 1, in which said corresponding data of the first document data and the second document data are changed so that the recognized drawing numbers become serial in said step (c).

4. (Currently Amended) An image editing method comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving [a] first document image data and [a] second document image data obtained by reading respectively a first document and a second document each having a page number printed;

(b) recognizing the page numbers from the first document image data and the second document image data;

(c) changing corresponding data in the first document image data and the second document image data so that the recognized page numbers do not overlap each other; and

(d) printing an image based on the changed first and second document image data.

5. (Currently Amended) An image editing method as claimed in claim 4, in which said corresponding data of the first document data and the second document data are changed so that the recognized ~~drawing~~ page numbers become serial in said step (c).

6. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

a receiving unit for receiving [a] first document image data and [a] second document data obtained by reading respectively a first document and a second document each having at least one drawing;

an extraction means for extracting a first caption group for identifying the drawing contained in the first document and a second caption group for identifying the drawing contained in the second document; and

a conversion means for converting the first caption group and the second caption group into a third caption group so that a character string in the first caption group does not overlap a character string in the second caption group.

7. (Original) An image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 6, in which said conversion means further converts character strings contained in the first document and the second document, which are identical to character strings that belong to the first caption group and the second caption group, into character strings that belong to the third caption group.

8. (Original) An image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 6, in which said extraction means recognizes a character string appended in the vicinity of the drawing as a caption based on positional information of the drawing and the character string.

9. (Currently Amended) An image editing apparatus comprising:  
a receiving unit for receiving [a] first document image data and [a] second document image data obtained by reading respectively a first document and a second document each having at least one drawing;

a recognizing means for recognizing [the] drawing numbers from the first document image data and the second document image data;

a changing means for changing corresponding data in the first document image data and the second document image data so that the recognized drawing numbers do not overlap each other; and

a printing unit for printing an image based on the changed first and second document data.

10. (Original) An image editing apparatus as claimed in claim 9, in which said recognizing means recognizes drawing numbers referenced in texts of the documents.

11. (Currently Amended) An image editing apparatus as claimed in claim 9, in which said changing means changes the corresponding data of the first document image data and the second document image data so that the recognized drawing numbers become serial.

12. (Currently Amended) An image editing program for causing a computer to execute the procedures of:

(a) receiving [a] first document image data and [a] second document image data obtained by reading respectively a first document and a second document each having at least one drawing and a drawing number located in the vicinity of the drawing;

(b) recognizing the drawing numbers from the first document image data and the second document image data;

(c) changing corresponding data in the first document image data and the second document image data so that the recognized drawing numbers do not overlap each other; and

(d) printing an image based on the changed first and second document image data.

13. (Original) An image editing program as claimed in claim 12, in which said drawing numbers recognized in said procedure (b) include those that are referenced in texts of the documents.

14. (Currently Amended) An image editing program as claimed in claim 12, in which said corresponding data of the first document image data and the second document image data are changed so that the recognized drawing numbers become serial in said procedure (c).

15. (New) An image processing apparatus comprising:

a receiving unit for receiving first document image data of a first document and second document image data of a second document, the first document and the second document each having at least one drawing;

an extraction unit for extracting a first caption group for identifying the drawing contained in the first document and a second caption group for identifying the drawing contained in the second document; and

a conversion unit for converting the first caption group and the second caption group into a third caption group so that a character string in the first caption group does not overlap a character string in the second caption group.

16. (New) An image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 15, in which said conversion unit further converts character strings contained in the first document and the second document, which are identical to character strings that belong to the first caption group and the second caption group, into character strings that belong to the third caption group.

17. (New) An image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 6, in which said extraction unit recognizes a character string appended in the vicinity of the drawing as a caption based on positional information of the drawing and the character string.

18. (New) An image editing apparatus comprising:  
a receiving unit for receiving first document image data a first document and second document image data a second document, the first document and the second document each having at least one drawing;  
a recognizing unit for recognizing drawing numbers from the first document image data and the second document image data;  
a changing unit for changing corresponding data in the first document image data and the second document image data so that the recognized drawing numbers do not overlap each other; and  
a printing unit for printing an image based on the changed first and second document data.

19. (New) An image editing apparatus as claimed in claim 18, in which said recognizing unit recognizes drawing numbers referenced in texts of the documents.

20. (New) An image editing apparatus as claimed in claim 18, in which said changing unit changes the corresponding data of the first document image data and the second document image data so that the recognized drawing numbers become serial.

21. (New) An image editing apparatus comprising:

a receiving unit for receiving first document image data a first document and second document image data a second document, the first document and the second document;

a recognizing unit for recognizing page numbers from the first document image data and the second document image data;

a changing unit for changing corresponding data in the first document image data and the second document image data so that the recognized page numbers do not overlap each other; and

a printing unit for printing an image based on the changed first and second document data.

22. (New) An image editing method as claimed in claim 21, in which said corresponding data of the first document data and the second document data are changed so that the recognized page numbers become serial in said step (c).